TRANSMITTAL NO. 18–30

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. A completely assembled Standard Missile–2 (SM–2) Block IIIA with or without a conventional warhead, whether a tactical, telemetry, or inert (training) configuration, is classified CONFIDENTIAL. Missile component hardware includes: Guidance Section (classified CONFIDENTIAL), Target Detection Device (classified CONFIDENTIAL), Warhead (UNCLASSIFIED), Dual Thrust Rocket Motor (UNCLASSIFIED), Steering Control Section (UNCLASSIFIED), Safe and Arming Device (UNCLASSIFIED), Autopilot Battery Unit (classified CONFIDENTIAL), and if telemetry missiles, AN/DKT–71 Telemeters (UNCLASSIFIED).

2. SM–2 operator and maintenance documentation is usually classified CONFIDENTIAL. Shipboard operation/firing guidance is generally classified CONFIDENTIAL. Prefiring missile assembly/pedigree information is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Denmark can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Denmark.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT BILL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I wish to discuss H.R. 6147, which includes the Fiscal Year 2019 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. This bill provides critical funding for the U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, and the Advanced National Seismic System, ANSS.

In recent years, USGS funding for external grants for local earthquake monitoring and research has become highly competitive and does not always reach areas of need. In a solicitation from May 2017, for example, USGS only funded approximately 15 percent of the grant proposals that were submitted to the agency for funding in this area.

I am particularly concerned by USGS's reduction of funding and utilization of local earthquake monitoring programs and ANSS partner facilities in areas of moderate earthquake risk, particularly in the northeast region of the United States.

It is true that most earthquakes tend to occur in zones where past earthquakes have taken place. However, each year, there are earthquakes that take place at unexpected locations, including in my home State of Massachusetts. The Northeast is a region of high population density, and the cities and towns in this region are often home to older buildings that are situated on soft soil and vulnerable to earthquake activity. This means that even small earthquakes can be felt by local residents and can be misinterpreted another disaster or even as a terrorist event if accurate and timely information is not readily made available.

While we cannot yet identify the active faults in the Northeast, earthquake data and research are pointing us toward those localities where we need to look for active faults. Once these faults are found, they can be studied to better define the probabilities of future potentially damaging earthquakes in the Northeast and New England region. Important advancements in understanding earthquake hazards and in promoting earthquake risk reduction activities are realized because of the efforts of local seismic experts at places like Weston Observatory in my home State of Massachusetts. These external partners play critical roles in delivering accurate earthquake assessments and warnings to State and local emergency management agencies and the general public.

I look forward to working with USGS to identify ways to expand funding for research at ANSS partner facilities that will improve their ability to deliver accurate earthquake assessments and products to their local populations across the United States, including the Northeast. As recently as 2011, a Northeast region stakeholder plan for ANSS called for improved delivery of seismic information to users in the region; an improved understanding of earthquake hazards in the Northeast; improved education and outreach on earthquakes and earthquake safety; and a multihazard approach to earthquake monitoring in this region. The stakeholders also called for funding support to local earthquake monitoring centers in the Northeast for these activities. Damaging earthquakes are rare, but they have happened in the past, and the evidence is overwhelming that they can happen again at some point in the future.

In order to be fully prepared, I urge the USGS to begin now to reinvest in local seismic monitoring programs and ANSS partner facilities in the Northeast and in New England in particular.

Thank you.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to speak on recent legislation extending the National Flood Insurance Program on a short-term basis.

The National Flood Insurance Program, NFIP, was created in 1968 in response to the lack of flood insurance available at the time. The program's intent was to encourage folks to protect their homes and communities to adopt sound floodplain management standards.

I would like to reiterate the findings of the 1966 Presidential Task Force on Federal Flood Control Policy: ''A flood insurance program is a tool that should be used expertly or not at all. Correctly applied it could promote wise use of flood plains. Incorrectly applied, it could exacerbate the whole problem of flood losses. For the Federal Government to subsidize low premium disaster insurance or provide insurance in which premiums are not proportionate to risk would be to invite economic waste of great magnitude''

In less than a year, we have extended the program seven times, most attached to must-pass bills, without any needed reforms. The program is over $20 billion in debt, even though we forgave $16 billion of that debt just last year. With our Federal debt now above $21 trillion, we need to address the solvency of the NFIP as soon as possible.

We can begin doing that by bringing some meaningful reform to the program, including moving towards more risk-based premiums. More importantly, interest from the private flood insurance market is growing. Their involvement means more flexible flood policies, integrated coverage with other insurance policies, and lower-cost coverage for some customers. Increasing private insurance's participation in flood insurance markets would reduce the financial risk obligations of this program for the Federal Government. I hope Congress will further clarify private insurers' role in the flood insurance market. As it stands, the NFIP cannot stand on its own feet, and it requires significant reforms to put it on sound financial footing. I urge my colleagues to find bipartisan, sustainable reforms to this program. We must stop kicking the can down the road on the necessary reforms needed to make this an effective program.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I agree with my colleague that homeowners affected by flood disasters would benefit from greater certainty through a longer-term reauthorization. I would agree that meaningful reform is necessary to sustain the National Flood Insurance Program, NFIP. As chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, it is my goal to bring bipartisan reform to the program. Our Nation has seen some devastating disasters involving floods and related natural disasters, especially in the last two decades. With those disasters, the NFIP has amassed significant debt to the US Treasury. The underlying program is not structurally sound and too few people are protected from flood risk. Comprehensive reforms to the program are important to improve the program's fiscal condition, ensure more homeowners are covered against the risk of loss from flooding, and enable the program to better serve current policyholders.

I agree with Senator ENZI. There is still work to be done to make the NFIP

more sustainable. Any long-term reauthorization must include important bipartisan reforms. While short-term extensions are not ideal, short-term extensions afford Congress needed time to address numerous concerns.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague and his committee for their efforts to address these concerns. I am hopeful reform is just around the corner, and I encourage my colleagues to continue to support reform of the National Flood Insurance Program.

3D PRINTED GUN SAFETY ACT AND THE UNTRACEABLE FIREARMS ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the 3D Gun Safety Act and the Untraceable Firearms Act. I applaud my colleagues, Senators NELSON, BLUMENTHAL, and MARKEY, for their work on these bills.

Days ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced a 31-percent increase in homicides involving guns between 2014 and 2016.

In 2016 alone, there were 14,415 gun homicides in America.

I have asked over and over, what is it going to take? When are we, as a nation, going to act and do something to save lives that are needlessly lost year after year?

Yet, instead of working to enact commonsense, gun safety measures to keep families, schools, and children safe, the Trump administration took a reckless and dangerous step that puts all of us in danger.

The Trump administration has now allowed a private company to publish step-by-step instructions on how to manufacture assault weapons and other guns using a 3D printer.

These instructions are going to be available on the internet, for anyone to use and follow, starting tomorrow. Think about that.

The Trump administration is giving away free instructions on how to manufacture weapons of war to anyone with a 3D printer, which can be bought online for less than $1,000.

These people could be dangerous criminals, terrorists, children, or those who suffer from mental illness.

I think this is absolutely unconscionable.

We should be working on ways to stop gun violence and keep our communities safe, not expand the proliferation of these dangerous weapons.

Several of us have written to the Justice Department and the State Department asking them to reverse this decision.

We have also introduced legislation today. The 3D Gun Safety Act, introduced by Senator NELSON, would prevent anyone from intentionally publishing 3D gun designs.

In addition, multiple state attorneys general have now sued the Trump administration and the purveyor of the 3D gun designs to prevent the dissemination of the 3D gun design instructions.

I am also pleased to support Senator BLUMENTHAL's bill, the Untraceable Firearms Act, which closes legal loopholes that allow individuals to build their own untraceable firearms using ''gun-making kits.''

Guns made from these kits are known as ghost guns because the guns do not have serial numbers or any other traceable features.

In other words, ghost guns—like 3D guns—are dangerous because any person, even those prohibited under Federal law from possessing guns, can just make a gun at home.

This is already happening.

For example, last November, a 44-year-old man named Kevin Janson Neal killed five people and injured eight others with a ghost gun in Tehama County, CA.

Neal made the ghost gun at home because he himself could not legally purchase a gun after being ordered to relinquish all guns under court order months before.

Tragically, with his ghost gun in hand, Neal shot his wife, his neighbors, and then went to a nearby elementary school.

He crashed through the elementary school gates with a truck, got out, and started firing in the center of the school's quad and at nearby windows and walls.

Neal fired approximately 100 rounds at the school, injuring seven children.

He did all of this with his homemade AR–15 military-style rifle.

We must act in the face of the real threat of untraceable ghost guns and 3D-printed firearms.

Our communities are at risk, and as lawmakers it is our solemn duty to act and protect our communities. So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these bills.

STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on Monday of last week, the Senate passed H.R. 2353, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, with a Senate amendment. On Wednesday, the House of Representatives followed suit. This measure reauthorizes the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, which was last reauthorized in 2006.

President Trump signed this important bill into law today at a ceremony at the White House that I was fortunate enough to have been invited to attend.

The bill modernizes our career and technical education programs in our Nation's high schools, and community colleges, technical colleges, and other institutions of higher education to provide the skills needed to support State and local employer's workforce needs. The bill is also designed to align with other Federal education and workforce laws.

While we are currently experiencing the best economy in 18 years, there are still 6.6 million unfilled jobs, many of these jobs offer high wages, but require workers to have specific or a high-level set of skills. In order to have a productive workforce and sustain a strong economy, we need to ensure today's workers and future workers have an opportunity to learn these needed skills.

Our bill is an important step in helping States and local communities do that.

First, as States are designing their State career and technical education—CTE—plans, they will need to consult with a variety of education and workforce stakeholders. This means, for the first time, employers and business leaders will work with the State on designing education programs that focus on preparing students for in-demand and emerging jobs.

Second, local school districts are required to conduct an evaluation of their current programs and how those programs align with in-demand industry sectors or occupations. In order to accomplish this, school districts will work with local community and business leaders to determine what those sectors and occupations are, if they are not fully aware of them already. The bill also makes a significant change to the way funds flow to States. Current law sends funds to States based on the population in the State but dictates States cannot receive less than what they received in 1998. Our bill updates this formula as populations have dramatically shifted with some States seeing significant growth over the past 20 years.

Another area that was improved was better aligning with other workforce initiatives. This bill would align CTE program plans with State Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act plans so that States that want to submit a combined plan may do so. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is a Federal workforce development law that provides training to adults already in or seeking employment.

In their CTE plans, States must determine levels of performance for several indicators of performance, which are outlined in the bill. The indicators at the secondary level include graduation rate, achievement of academic standards as defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act, ensuring academic rigor in programs, and accounting for students who enter postsecondary education, the military, national service, or are employed, to name a few. There are additional and similar indicators for postsecondary education.

The State determined levels of performance for these indicators must be expressed as a percentage of students and demonstrate that the State is striving to improve year after year. States must determine the level for each indicator for the group of all CTE concentrators, which are the group of students at the secondary level taking